

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 SAM-01 /104 W

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R 241020Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4835

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 2307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR, TC

SUBJECT : MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: UAE RESERVATIONS  
ON PUERTO RICO LANGUAGE

REF: COLOMBO 3156

1. WE NOTE REFTTEL CONFIRMS WHAT MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GHOBASH TOLD AMBASSADOR EVENING AUGUST 22--NAMELY THAT UAEG DID CARRY THROUGH ON ITS PLEDGE TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ON CUBAN INSPIRED LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO. ONE CAN OF COURSE, ARGUE THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY CASE OF UAE DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT ON ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, THE VAST MAJORITY OF NAM SUMMIT ATTENDEES MANAGED TO AVOID THIS COURSE. FOR UAE, WITH FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON AVOIDING CONTROVERSY, TO STAND AS ONLY ONE OF EIGHT AGAINST THAT MAJORITY IS IN SHORT ACT DESERVING OF PRAISE (EVEN IF UAE POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION DID NOT MEASURE UP TO SAME STANDARD.)

2. EMBASSY HAS OF COURSE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION ORALLY TO MFQFN BUT BELIEVES LETTER OF THANKS FROM APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIAL IN DEPT. (PERHAPS ASST. SECRETARY FOR NEA OR IO) TO UAE FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED SUWEIDI IS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORDER . WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING TEXT:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. MINISTER: ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT I WISH TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE RESERVATION ENTERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED EMIRATES TO THE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO CONTAINED IN THE POLITICAL DECLARATION ADOPTED AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO.

AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE FROM REPRESENTATIONS WHICH WE HAVE MADE IN THE MONTHS PRECEDING THE COLOMBO SUMMIT, WE HAVE TAKEN MOST SERIOUSLY THE ATTEMPT OF CERTAIN STATES TO RAISE IN THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE A MATTER WHICH IS CLEARLY AN INTERNAL MATTER OF CONCERN ONLY TO THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. MY GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED THE EXPRESSIONS OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THIS POSITION WHICH HAVE BEEN OFFERED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION BY YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN ABU DHABI. WE WELCOMED IN PARTICULAR YOUR ASSURANCES THAT THE UAE DELEGATION WOULD NOT STAND IDLY BY AND ALLOW OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE ON PUERTO RICO TO BE ADOPTED IN COLOMBO AS UNANIMOUS CONSENSUS WITHOUT OBJECTION. NOW AFTER THE EVENT, WHILE WE CLEARLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE LANGUAGE IN QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN INTRODUCED MUCH LESS ACCEPTED, I DO WISH TO EXPRESS MY GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR THE FACT THAT THE UAE ALONG WITH A SMALL SELECT GROUP OF OTHER STATES DID CARRY THROUGH ON ITS PLEDGE AND EXPRESSED RESERVATION REGARDING THE CUBAN INSPIRED PUERTO RICAN LANGUAGE. WE NEVER EXPECTED OTHERWISE, BUT WE WELL REALIZE THAT IT WAS NOT EASY TO STAND AGAINST SUCH A LARGE MAJORITY, EVEN WHEN A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE WAS INVOLVED. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE EXAMPLE OF THE UAE ACTION ON PUERTO RICO WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER COUNTRIES ON THIS AND SIMILAR ISSUES AT FUTURE INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS. WITH ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION, SINCERELY.

UNQUOTE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ABUDH02307  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 COLOMBO 3156  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by blochd0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: UAE RESERVATIONS ON PUERTO RICO LANGUAGE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, TC, RQ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006